

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF CYCLONE-MARAK

St. Joseph, Cyclone & Sts. Cyril & Methodius, Marak.

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The Sacraments

Baptism: Saturday after Mass. Please contact the pastor for scheduling a meeting with him; a preparation program may be needed. Parents must be registered parishioners of St Joseph, Cyclone or Sts Cyril & Methodius, Marak.

Confessions: SATURDAYS 4:00-5:00 PM OR BY APPOINTMENT.

Marriage: Couples planning to be married should contact the pastor at least six months in advance before date of wedding. Completion of required paperwork and a preparation program needed.

JANUARY 4, 2026 THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

This Epiphany Sunday, the star of the Gospel is — literally — the star. Here is the original GPS device, guiding the magi from the East toward Christ. The very word Epiphany means “manifestation.” Webster’s Dictionary elaborates: “An intuitive grasp of reality through something simple and striking.” Something as simple as a child. Something as striking as a star. Scripture is silent about just who the Magi really were, whether they were kings, astrologers or “wise men.” Historians will tell you that we don’t know exactly how many of them there were. But because they brought three gifts — gold, frankincense and myrrh — tradition has held that there were three of them.

That, of course, is a number with powerful biblical significance, echoing the number of persons in the Trinity and the days Christ spent in the tomb. But it also signifies something even more compelling — and a beautiful truth we should seize on this Sunday. It reminds us that we don’t embark on the Christian journey alone. We are part of a body of believers, a community. Again and again, when Christ is revealed to the world, he doesn’t show himself to just one person at a time. Think of Christmas night, when the news was announced to shepherds — another group, another kind of community. This will happen repeatedly. Epiphanies abound. Think of all the times Jesus makes a kind of “manifestation” — at his baptism, when he preaches, when he performs his first miracle, when he reappears after the Resurrection, even when encountering travelers on the road to Emmaus.

The familiar citation from Matthew 18 — “Whenever two or more are gathered in my name, there am I with them” — is prophetic and real. To consider all that is to consider part of the great message of Christianity. We are meant to receive the Good News together, to live it together, to celebrate it and share it with one another. Christianity is not a solitary experience. Thomas Merton put it beautifully: “Love is our true destiny. We do not find the meaning of life by ourselves alone. We find it with another.” And there is something else about this great feast worth noting: the Magi didn’t come to the Lord empty handed. The Gospel tells us “They opened their treasures.” The Magi had priceless gifts to share. So do all of us. The prayerful question we should ask ourselves is: What do we have to give? What do we have to share with Christ and with the world? Don’t be shy about sharing your gift. No matter who we are, or where we come from, or what we do, each of us has a treasure to offer. Each of us is called, in our way, to be members of the Magi.

As we celebrate Christ manifesting himself to the world, think of what that manifestation has meant to each of us, to whatever community we belong to. What can we give in return — to God, and to one another? What are our treasures? The Christmas season is coming to a close. But this lesson of Epiphany should stay with us: The season of giving doesn’t have to end.

MINISTRIES

Saturday, January 10, 2026

Communion: Pat Armstrong
Lector: John Hattemer
Altar Servers: Stumbaugh Family
Ushers: Volunteers

Sunday, January 11, 2026

Communion: Andrew Brenek
Lector: Courtney Prado
Altar Servers: J Hoelscher—D Jahns—C Vrana—
H Cowen
Ushers: Roy Buckholt & Eugene Brenek

UPCOMING MASSES

1/4	Sunday 8:15 am:	+ Lucille Stock by Anton & Merlene Bravenec + Stanley Motl by Charlie Tischler
1/6	Tuesday 7:00 am:	+ Josie Kleypas by David & Janet Kasner + Ruth Doskocil by David & Janet Kasner
1/8	Thursday 7:00 am:	+ Monica Mikeska by Carol Stermer + Evelyn Jez by Roy & Debbie Buckholt
1/10	Saturday Vigil 4:00 pm:	+ Glenda Hesse by Smetana Family + Anton Vrazel by SPJST Lodge 24 Flag Hall
1/11	Sunday 8:15 am:	+ Nancy Hubnik by Bernadette Bruggman + Alice Stojanik by Charlie & Jackie Green

WESTPHALIA MASSES

1/4	Sunday 10:15 am
1/7	Wednesday 6:00 pm
1/9	Friday 8:00 am
1/10	Saturday 6:00 pm
1/11	Sunday 10:15 am

In your charity, please pray for: Homebound: Leora Hering. Good health: A. J. Stermer, Bill Stock, Dorothy Haisler, Evelyn Richter, Buddy Roessler, Al & Lou Buckholt, Mary Jane Underwood, Lindsey Pierce, Rebecca Marek, Margaret Campbell, Barbara Johnson, Fr. Tom Chamberlain, Nickolas Jimenez.

Stewardship—Dec. 28—\$2643 Christmas—\$3265 Feast of the Holy Family—\$953

Sanctuary Light—Jan. 4—10—In Memory of Zachary Schneider by Pat Armstrong.

2026 OFFERTORY ENVELOPES ARE IN THE CHURCH ENTRANCE. PLEASE PICK YOURS UP.

NEW SCHEDULE EFFECTIVE JANUARY 3, 2026

Saturday—St. Joseph 4:00 pm Westphalia—6:00 pm
Sunday—St. Joseph—8:15 am Westphalia—10:15 am
Weekdays—St. Joseph—Tuesdays and Thursdays 7:00 am
Weekdays—Westphalia—Wednesday 6:00 pm and Friday 8:00 am

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 18—REP will be selling breakfast tacos following mass. Please support our youth!

January 20—KC Meeting—7:00 pm.

January 24—The Altar Society of the Church of the Visitation is hosting a Rosary Retreat in the Parish Hall. Wendy Staab, presenter of this retreat, shares her knowledge and boundless energy and will capture your attention. Lunch is included in the \$20 fee. Register and pay online by January 19 at austindccw.org/events or mail check payable to: Westphalia Altar Society, 395 FM 431, Lott, TX 76656.

February 7—Holy Trinity Catholic High School fundraiser—The Celtic Speakeasy—A Roaring Twenties Gala at the Catholic Activity Center—7:00 pm. Tickets are available at www.holytrinitychs.org/celtic-gala.

ALTAR SOCIETY NEWS

January 12—Next Altar Society Meeting.